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Identical letters dated 13 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

In the light of the Syrian people's belief in its national unity, its tenacious defence of its independence and sovereignty and the provisions of the Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic, presidential elections were held on 3 June 2014. Ballots were cast before that date at embassies of the Syrian Arab Republic. For the first time in Syria's history, the elections offered a choice between several candidates. The voting took place in a climate of competition, equality, freedom of expression and restraint. In accordance with the law, the Syrian State was completely impartial towards the three candidates. Observers representing the three candidates were present during the voting, when the ballots were opened and when the results were announced. The electoral process was monitored by representatives of numerous States, parliaments, electoral committees and non-governmental organizations. It was covered by over one hundred media outlets from a range of countries and continents. The elections were supervised, scrutinized and monitored by a high judicial committee supported by subcommittees in each governorate.

The elections took place at the constitutionally-prescribed time across the Syrian Arab Republic and abroad. The climate was one of democracy and transparency, and the popular response exceeded expectations. According to Syrian State records, 15,845,575 Syrians at home and abroad were eligible to vote; 11,634,412 of them, or 73.42 per cent, did so. There were 442,108 invalid ballots, or 3.8 per cent of the total. The candidate Dr. Bashar Hafez al-Assad won 10,319,723 votes, or 88.7 per cent of the valid ballots. Dr. Hassan Abdullah al-Nuri won 500,279 votes, or 4.3 per cent of valid ballots. Mr. Mahir Abdulhafiz Hajjar won 372,301 votes, or 3.2 per cent of valid ballots.

In statements issued independently, Mr. Nuri and Mr. Hajjar said that they accepted the results that had been announced and respected the decision of the Syrian people. They emphasized that the elections had been fair and honest.

The Syrian people has affirmed that it is the only party entitled to express an opinion on matters of sovereignty and constitutionality in the country. Syria faces a number of challenges, particularly the terrorist onslaught backed by certain States that are purportedly democratic and others whose entire history has yet to witness an

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election. Nevertheless, the Syrian people turned out in full view of the world to exercise its right to choose its president. The terrorist organizations and the so-called moderate armed opposition had threatened to rain down thousands of missiles and mortar shells on the voting stations. Even though those threats were carried out, the Syrian people turned out in its millions, defying all obstacles to elect a president in accordance with the finest legal and electoral standards. Yet instead of encouraging and supporting that historic experience, certain of the States that have attacked Syria's role and position sought to thwart the election. In so doing, they contravened all democratic values and notions and the principles of human rights and freedom of expression and vote. Their purpose was to misrepresent the civilized nature of the Syrian people. Indeed, some of those States fought against the democratic process by preventing the holding of elections at Syrian embassies, in violation of international law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

All of the claims proffered by certain States regarding the elections have now been disproved. The elections took place all over Syria. The turnout exceeded that of the countries whose leaders claimed that the situation in Syria would make voting impossible. The allegation that the elections could hinder a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria has also proved false. The Syrian people voted for electoral programmes that largely stressed the need to bring Syria out of its current situation, particularly by confronting terrorism and violence and reaching a peaceful solution through an intra-Syrian, Syrian-led dialogue aimed at rebuilding what the terrorists have destroyed and restoring normal life to what used to be one of the safest and most stable countries in the Middle East and the world.

The Syrian Constitution and the relevant laws have been followed, and the international community must respect the desire of the Syrian people to choose its leaders and determine its present and future. The international community must stand with the Syrian people by combating terrorism and prevailing on those States that openly arm, fund and shelter terrorist groups to refrain from doing so. Moreover, the terrorists whom certain States have used in order to attack Syria have now begun to turn against them.

Through these elections, the great Syrian people has proved that it is patriotic and law-abiding. It is high time for those States that are involved in shedding Syrian blood and arming and funding terrorists to recognize the right of the Syrian people to live in security and peace.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative